

Educational Interpreter Interagency Consortium (EIIC)

FAQs

Question	Answer
Why is this legislation being introduced?	Idaho has no standards to guarantee deaf and hard-of-hearing students equal access to classroom information. The EIIC found that 62% of Idaho's K-12 interpreters who took the national assessment could not interpret 60% of classroom information. Students need quality assurance.
Does this legislation seek to license or certify all K-12 interpreters like teachers?	No. This legislation seeks to establish minimum standards. The assessment or certification requirements differ depending on the system used, e.g., Sign Language, Cued Speech, or Oral. See the Bill for exact language.
Will interpreters have to go to school and get formal training?	No. The proposed legislation does not require formal training or college degrees.
How many K-12 interpreters are there in Idaho?	Approximately 70-75.
What about supply and demand in rural areas?	The Bill allows a 3-year grace period / emergency authorization for interpreters to meet the minimum standard. This is sufficient time for interpreters to take advantage of home-study materials and statewide workshops. Emergency authorization for new interpreters remains in force after the initial 3-year grace period expires. Graduates of Interpreter Training Programs have a year to meet the standards.
How can interpreters get training if they can't go to workshops?	A repository of <u>free</u> home-study materials is available for use. Interpreters only have to pay postage fees to borrow the materials. The EIIC is developing a plan to improve direct communication to districts and interpreters, informing them how to take advantage of these free resources.
Who is currently paying for training?	The EIIC is currently operating with a grant from the School for the Deaf and the Blind (ISDB). ISDB funds a person to coordinate the statewide workshops, a person to manage the home-study materials, and it offers its facilities for workshops. The Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CDHH) conducts workshops, offers its facilities for workshops, and assist with workshop logistics. Idaho State University (ISU) offers its facilities for workshops and will allow the use of its videoconferencing network for a fee. The State Department of Education (SDE) is currently considering another grant for additional training.
What can districts do to help?	Districts can allow their interpreters to attend the EIIC workshops on in-service days and encourage home study.